

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

1. Call to order: 4:00 P.M. Regular Meeting December 17, 2009 at the Woonsocket Housing Authority, 679 Social Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Chairwoman Lucienne L. Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Albert Brien
Commissioner Gerard Frappier
Commissioner David Lahousse
Commissioner Gerard Remillard

Robert Kulik, Executive Director
Deputy Director, Duncan Speel
Commissioner Normand Laliberte –Arrived at 4:07
Attorney Howard Croll
Attorney Joseph Rodio
Attorney Michael Murphy

- 1B. Good and Welfare for the Audience
2. Good and Welfare for Commissioners

Vice Chairman Baldelli, Commissioner Lahousse and Commissioner Frappier extend wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vice Chairman Baldelli says he will be proposing a wage increase for the part-time security personnel at the January meeting.

Vice Chairman Baldelli raises the matter of a letter received from Duane Boucher of Boucher & Company Real Estate. He questions whether the letter rises to the level of a Slapp suit. Attorney Rodio who conducted the real estate interviews addresses the issue stating that he was never contacted by any members of the Board and explains how he arrived at his recommendation to the Board. Attorney Rodio states that he sent a written response to Mr. Boucher. Vice Chairman Baldelli questions the possibility of suing Mr. Boucher. Attorney Croll states that the ensuing conversation must be held in closed session due to the possibility of litigation.

Commissioner Brien, Attorney Croll and Attorney Rodio have some discussion regarding the Slapp Statute.

Vice Chairman Baldelli makes a motion to put the topic of the Boucher letter on the agenda of the January meeting, in closed session. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Laliberte.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

Commissioner Brien states that he voted to put the item on the agenda, but he does not agree that it should be in Executive Session. Attorney Croll attempts to clarify litigation/potential litigation in closed vs. open session. Commissioner Brien states that he misunderstood, and a re-vote is taken.

A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli

Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

Commissioner Brien

Under Good & Welfare, Chairwoman Cote reads a note from an employee who expresses gratitude for the employee Christmas party on December 4, 2009.

3. Chairwoman Cote asks for a motion to approve the Minutes for the meeting of November 19, 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte and seconded by Commissioner Remillard.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

4. Chairwoman Cote asked for a motion to approve the bills paid for the month of November 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Frappier and seconded by Vice Chairman Baldelli.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

5. Communications and Interest of the Authority.

Chairwoman Cote asked for a motion to receive and place on file. A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte. The motion and was seconded by Vice-Chairman Baldelli.

A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”:

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

6. Report of the Secretary

- A. The Executive Director’s report was received and placed on file upon motion of Commissioner Laliberte and seconded by Commissioner Remillard.

The Director yields his time to Finance Director Steve Mariano to review the draft of the 2010 budget. The 2010 budget will be on the agenda for approval at the January meeting. A draft of the Board Meeting schedule for 2010 is in package for review for approval at the January meeting. Any motions to change the dates can be made at the next meeting. The Director reads a November 28, 2009 letter from Commissioner Brien requesting correspondence dated July 14, 2009 to Donna Ayala at HUD signed by the Director and Deputy Director be listed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting and to be considered in open session pursuant to 42-46-1 of the R.I.G.L. Communication regarding this issue is in the board package explaining why this request was not honored. Attorney Croll explains that the AG’s office has requested further information before they can act on the request. Additional information has been provided. Attorney Croll does not even expect this to be on next month’s agenda.

The Finance Director begins to explain the financial hand-outs when Attorney Croll stops and asks if the budget is on the agenda. The Director says it is just a draft and there is no vote being taken. Attorney Croll says if anything is related to the budget, the public has a right to know about it. The draft budget is distributed, but not discussed.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

- B. The Deputy Director’s report was received and placed on file upon motion of Commissioner Laliberte and seconded by Commissioner Frappier.

Deputy Director Speel submitted his report as written adding that under new business is the award of two insurance bids.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken as amended; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

- C. The reports of the Direct Staff, Legal and Financial were received and placed on file upon motion of Commissioner Laliberte and seconded by Vice-Chairman Baldelli.

There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

7. Report of Committees
None

8. Unfinished Business
None

9. New Business

A. Award of contract to Universal Insurance for D&O and Employment Practices and Auto, General Liability and Umbrella insurances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frappier and seconded by Vice-Chairman Baldelli. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli

Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

Commissioner Brien

B. Approval of donation of refrigerator for the parish kitchen at All Saints Parish.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Baldelli seconded by Commissioner Laliberte. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard - Abstain

C. Approval to charge Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. for copies of requested documents related to the demolition or disposition of WHA’s public housing units.

A motion was made by Commissioner Laliberte and seconded by Vice Chairman Baldelli. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken; the following were the “Ayes” and “Nays”.

AYES

NAYS

Chairwoman Cote
Vice Chairman Baldelli
Commissioner Brien
Commissioner Frappier
Commissioner Lahousse
Commissioner Laliberte
Commissioner Remillard

10. Adjournment

Chairwoman Cote asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Baldelli and Commissioner Remillard at 4:47 p.m. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Robert Kulik, Executive Director